

Biggar

SASKATCHEWAN, CANADA



A Pictorial History

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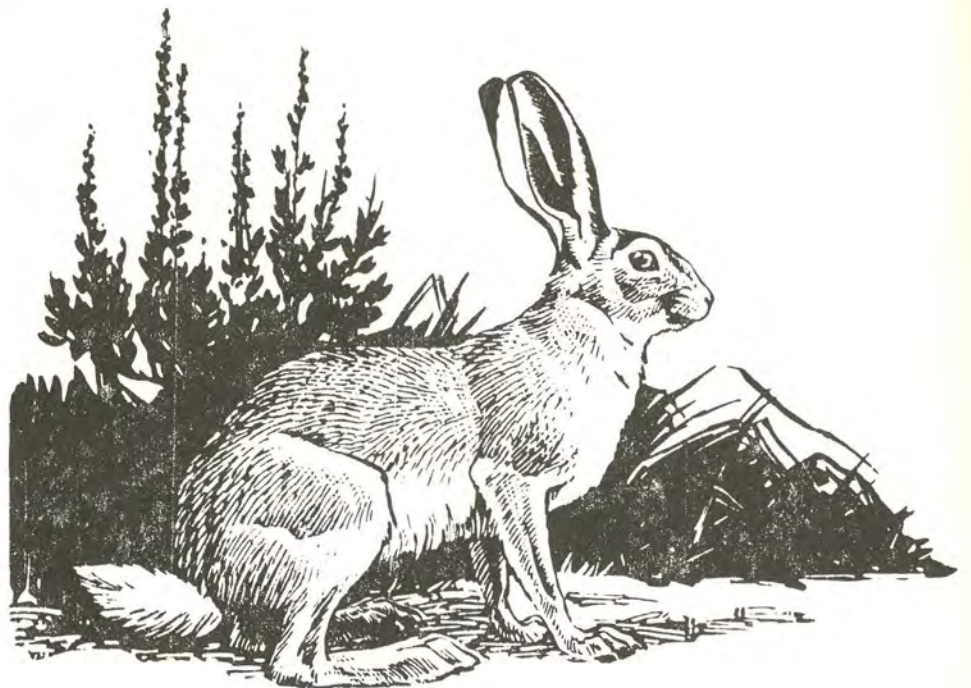


Canada's first nomadic people came from Asia through the Bering Strait. Early man hunted giant animals throughout the Great Plains after the last Ice Age.

Mammoths and bison ranged the prairies over 20,000 years ago sustained by the lush grasses, the numerous lakes and sloughs and the great salt flats.

The buffalo was an expert judge of grass and great herds roamed the rolling prairie land now known as the Biggar District. Their story was written in deep trails, buffalo wallows and large rubbing stones.

Antelope, deer, coyote and game birds abounded but the buffalo supplied the basic necessities for the early Indian people.





Petroglyph in Biggar area.

Early man used stones as weapons — first throwing them at their prey. To extend his arm he used a stick and learned to fashion spear points as a more effective killing tool. Over the centuries the rough points developed into flaked, sharpened projectile points of flint, chert, and petrified wood.

Buffalo compounds were numerous in this area and vast quantities of buffalo bone and artifacts remain. The use of drives involved all the people, the men as builders, priests, bison caller, stamper and butchers, the women and children as aids in dressing the meat.

Pemmican was prepared with wild berries, dried meat, marrow or fat pounded together and stored in pouches. These were buried, to be used even years later when food was scarce.

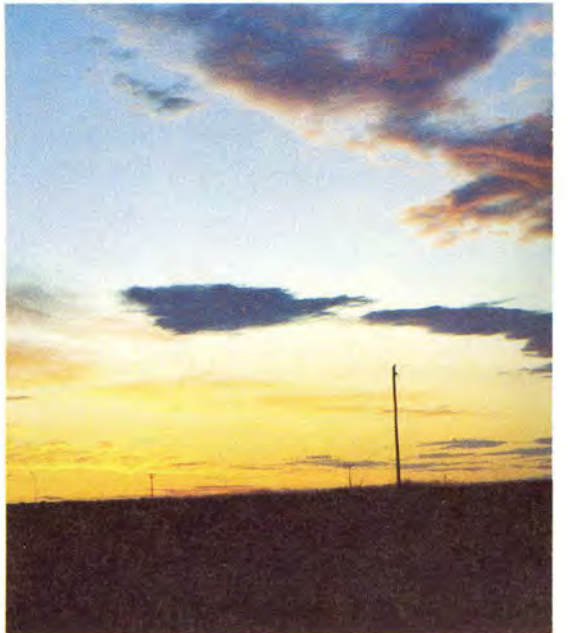
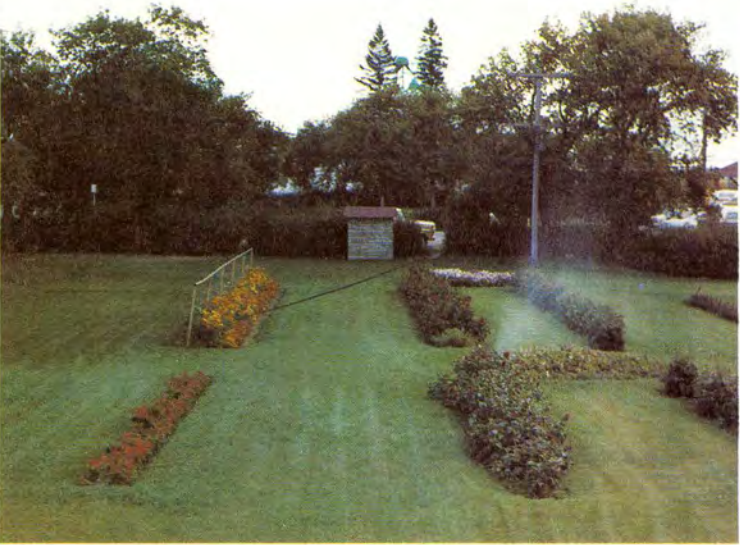
Cover Story

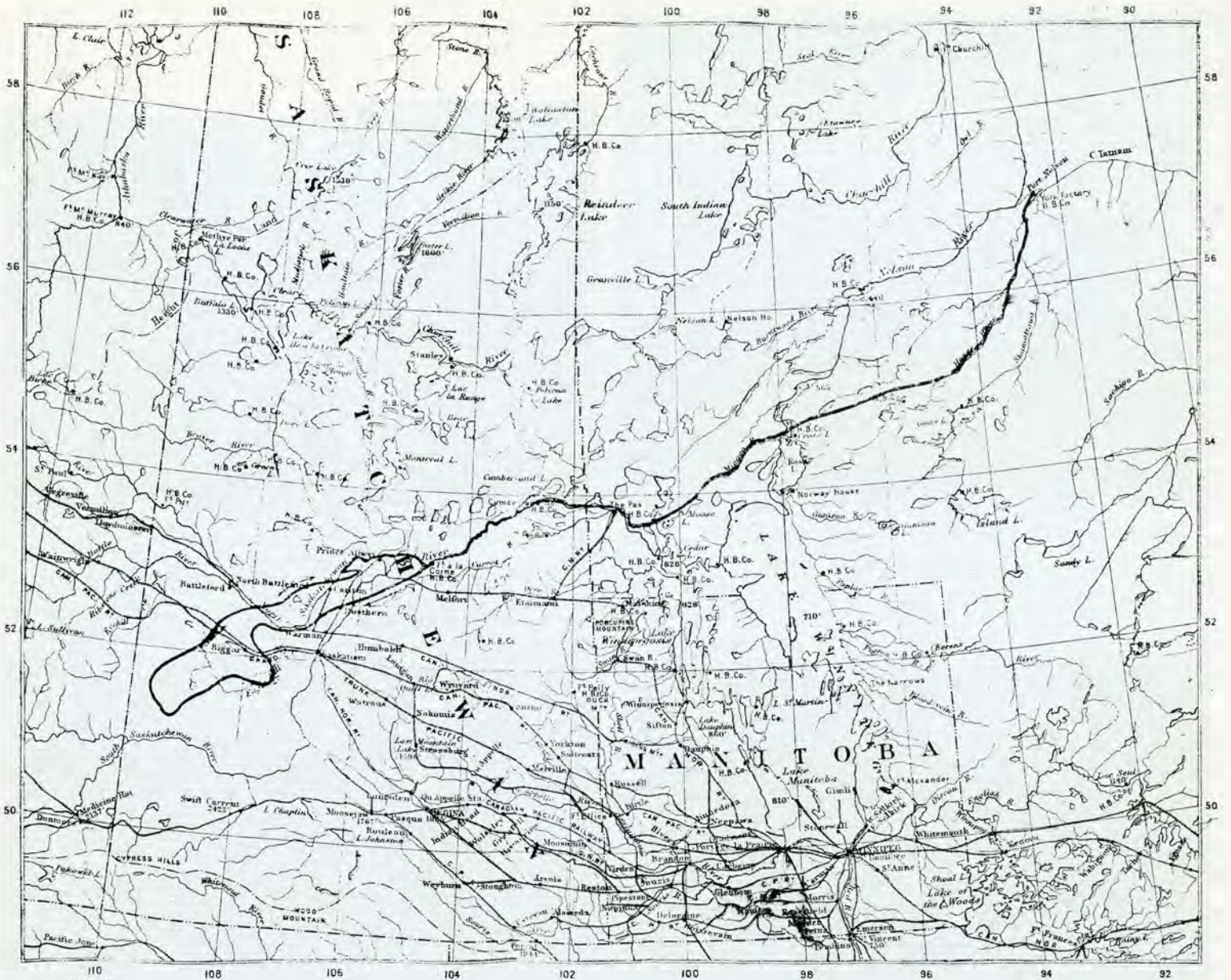
The scene on our cover is the first display in the Biggar Museum and Gallery. It portrays the life style of the natives before the white man.

Mrs. Nancy Chapple (Dressyman) a local Cree lady is seated by the fire and the tee pee constructed by her.

The mural was painted by four generous local artists as a gift to the community; Mrs. Esther Clements, Mr. John Dyck, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Meszaros.







In 1772-1773 Matthew Cocking, Hudson's Bay Factor at Fort York travelled with his Cree Indian guides into this territory to explore the inland country and to promote the Hudson's Bay Company's interest. The Indians were reluctant to take their furs to the post as they were unacquainted with the method of building canoes and paddling.

From his map and journal it appears that he spent the period of October 10 to December 17, in this area.

"Oct. 10 Arriving at the ridge of small poplars were the natives intent (sic) to trap the winter season."

"Oct. 16-19 The Natives Shew(sic) me a tobacco plantation belonging to the Archithinne Indians (a tribe of Blackfeet) a natural weed *Nicotina Quadrivalvis*, the

flowers inferior to our tobacco — a nauseous, insipid weed — the ripe leaf is somewhat better."

"Nov. 25-26 Natives trapping wolves, endeavouring to drive Buffalo to the pound where they were killed with Bow and Arrows; and in the evenings Conjuring and Feasting. I get no rest at night for Drumming, Dancing, & c."

"There are four tribes which are all Equestrian Indians Viz., Bloody Indians, Blackfooted Indians, Muddy-water Indians and Woody Country Indians."

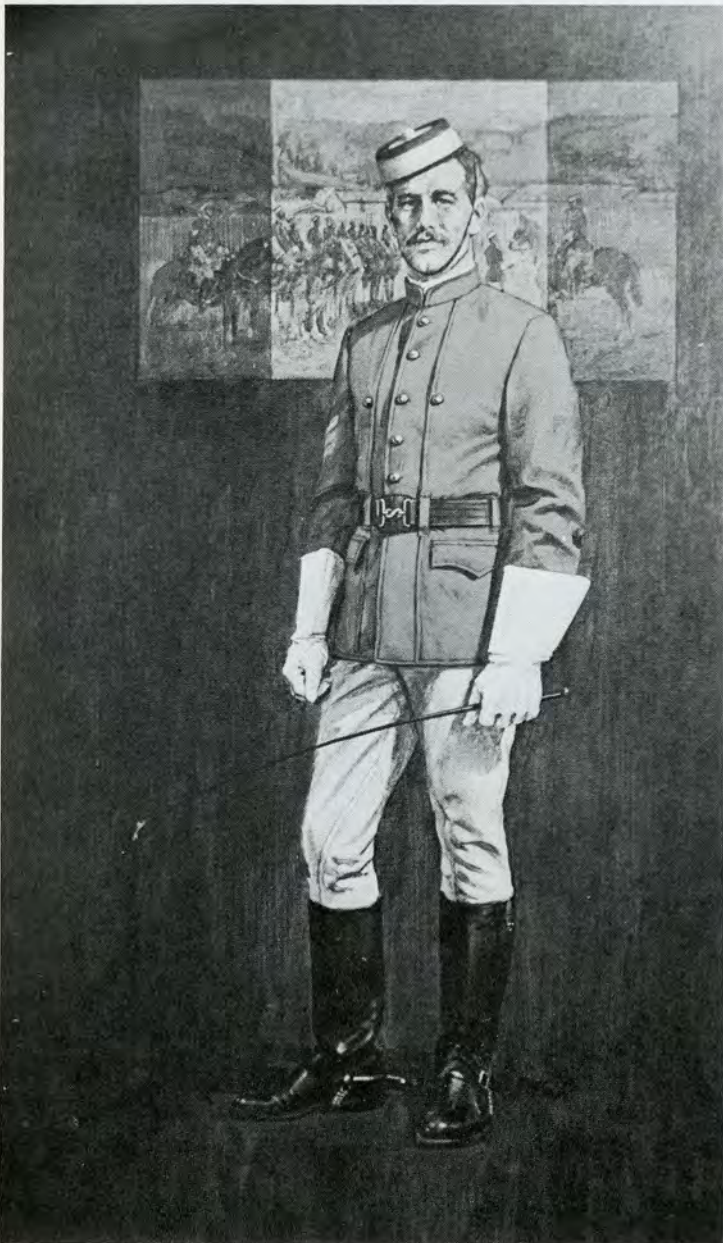
"Nov. 25-26 Saturday. Wolves, Foxes, the Roebuck; another animal of the Deer kind named Pistaticoos, (probably antelope), but something less in size; plenty of Hares; Pheasants; Crows, Magpies and small Birds of the same kind as to the Northward; Red Deer are scarce."

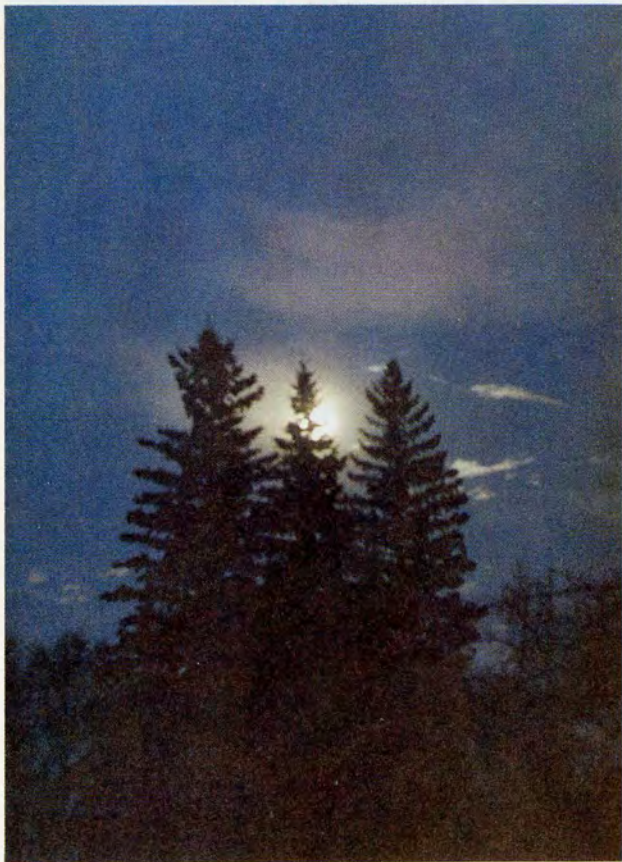
The Last Buffalo

One of the last links with the early West was forever severed in July. While stationed on detachment duty at the Sixty-Mile Bush on the Battleford-Swift Current trail Csts. J. D. Nicholson and William McNair learned from a freighter that some halfbreeds had told him of a small herd of buffalo frequenting the badlands near Tramping Lake south-west of the Eagle Hills, at a spot about 25 miles from the detachment. The two constables decided to locate the animals if possible, but found travelling so difficult among the alkali lowlands

bordering Tramping Lake they were obliged to give up the search. On their return they met James Clinkskill of Battleford, one of the newly-elected members of the Legislature, who had two hind quarters of fresh buffalo meat on his buckboard. He had procured it from some halfbreeds who had killed five of the animals near Tramping Lake. One of the quarters was turned over to the two constables, and thus closed the record of the last wild buffalo on the Canadian plains!

1888 — R.C.M.P. Archives







This outpost in the Sixty Mile Bush was one of the better stopping places on the Battleford Swift Current Trail.

The North West Mounted Police regularly patrolled the trail from 1886, to assure the safety of settlers, freighters, businessmen and mail that came from the railroad at Swift Current. The "Red Coats" also visited settlers to check on their welfare.

A common sight was 100 to 150 carters in one long line. Colonel Otter and his troops stayed overnight at the

outpost on their journey to relieve the settlers at the siege at Battleford.

The settlement consisted of a stopping place, a store, a large Livery Barn (sod) and many sod and log shacks. In 1905 Mr. Hilaire de Moissac helped build a small Catholic Church on a hill east of the store. Father Laufer of the Oblates of St. Joseph's Colony at Leipzig travelled to the Church to conduct services. Mrs. H. de Moissac speaks of going to Mass by oxen and stone boat.

After the steel was laid the outpost was used by horse traders and finally abandoned.



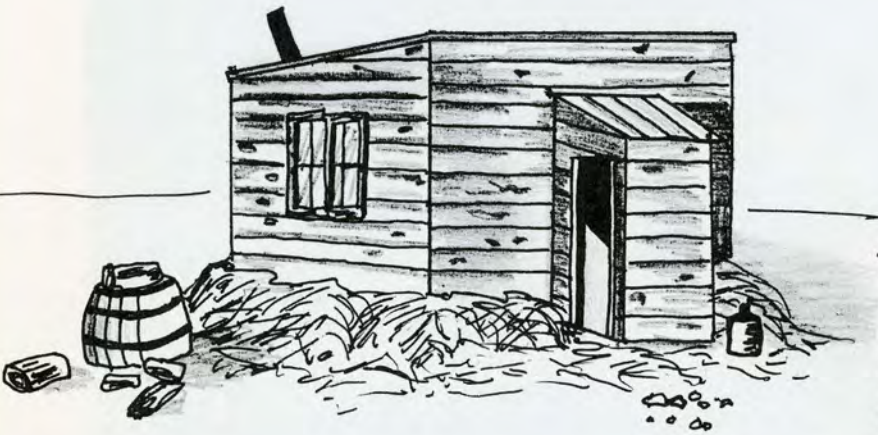


The Andrew Charles Homestead

The first settlers found that their bona fide claims as squatters were fully respected when the Colonization Companies were formed.

When the land was thrown open for homesteads, the government sent out a wealth of literature to promote immigration. Land seekers came from Eastern Canada, U.S.A., Great Britain and Europe to settle where "Land is the source of all Wealth, and There's no Better Land Than This."

For a fee of \$10.00, a promise to live on the land for six months each year for three years, and to make improvements, a quarter section (160 acres) was granted to farmers. Another quarter section, called a pre-emption, could be purchased for \$3.00 per acre with payment over five years and interest at 5%.

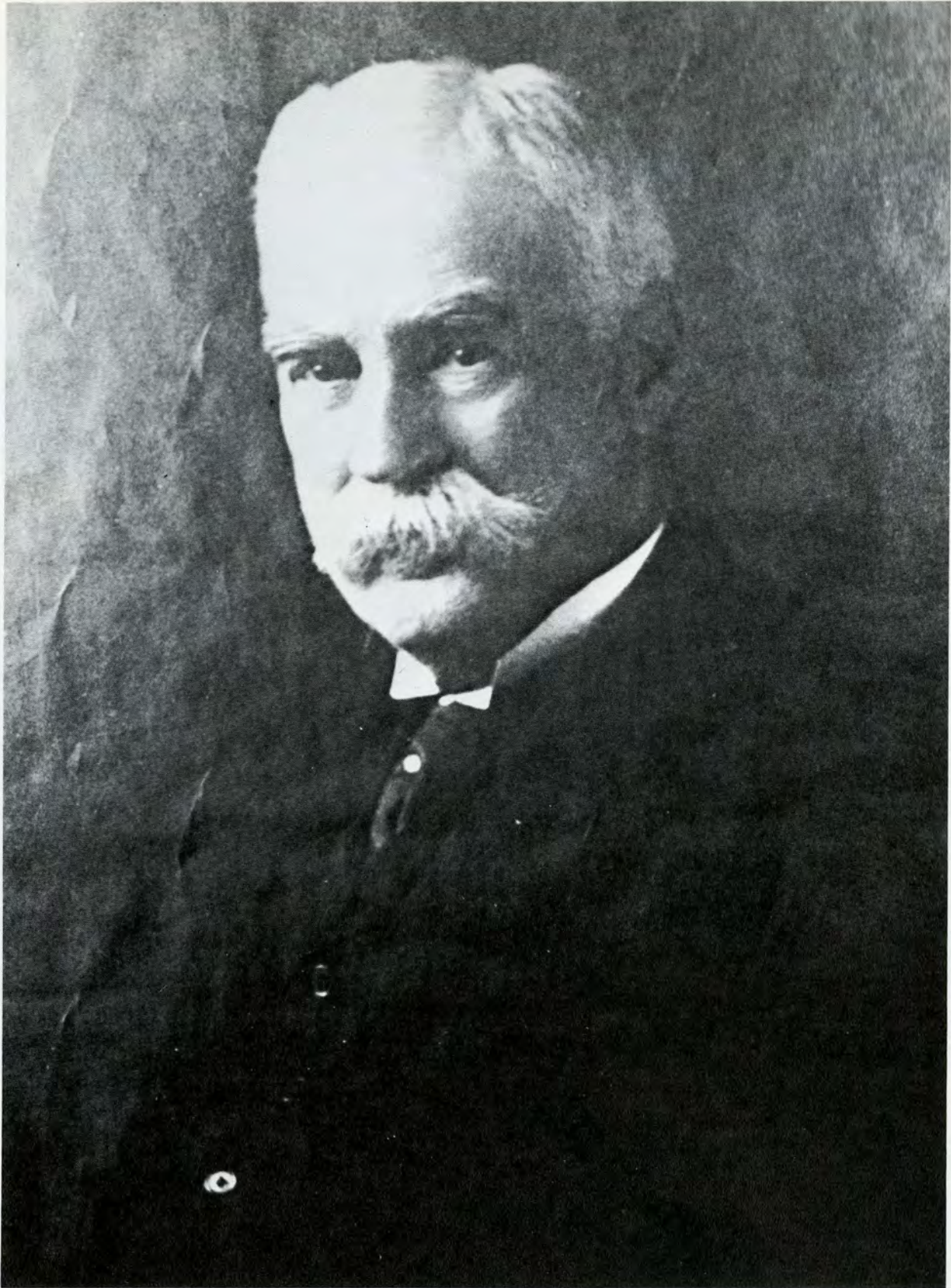




Construction of Grand Tunk Pacific Railroad Grade — three miles east of Biggar, 1906.



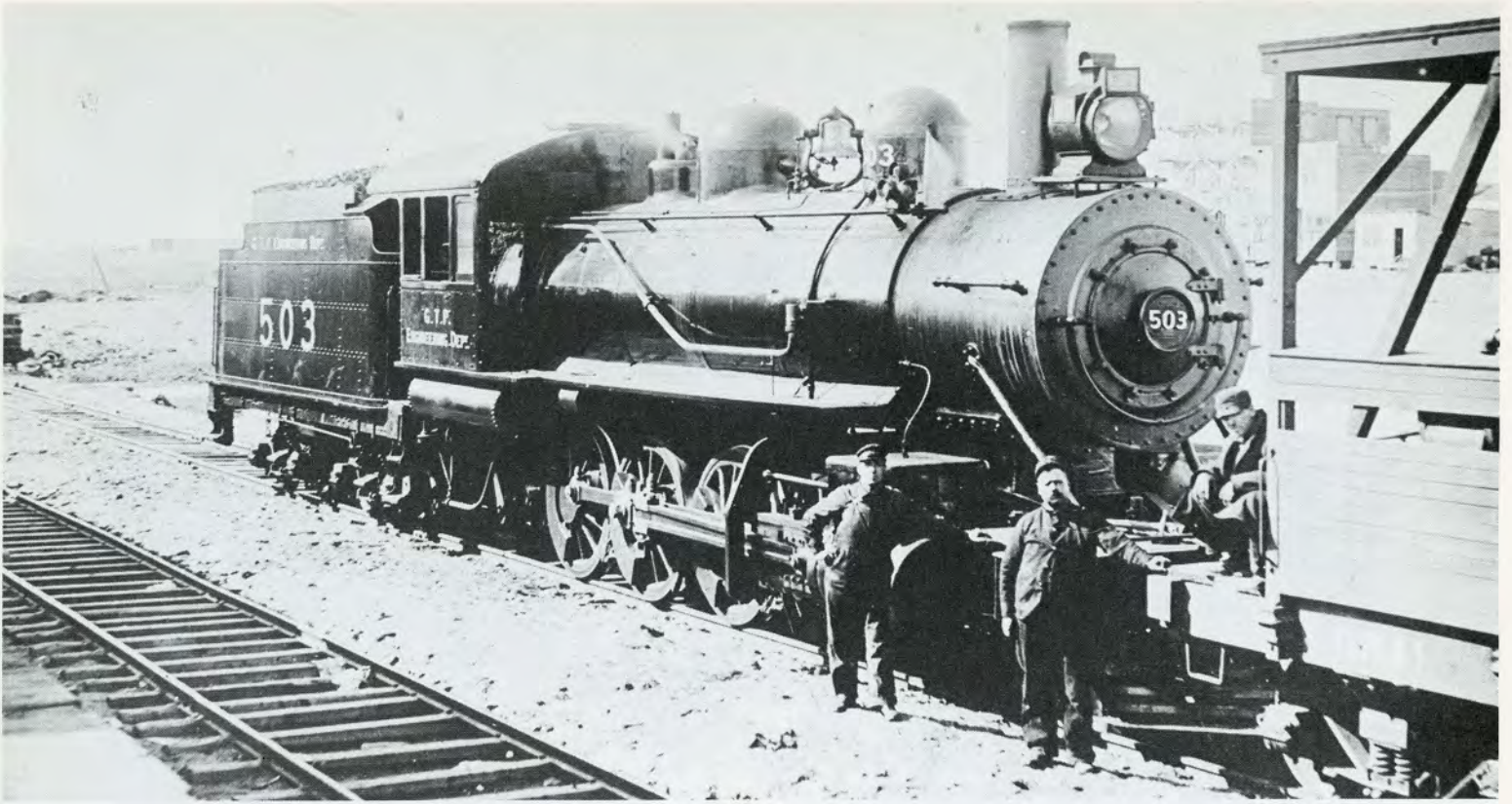
At first mail was quite a problem, there being no Post Office, the G.T.P. Construction Dep't. permitted mail to be addressed to their care but as their office was then at the Gravel Pit (3 miles east). One had to take a six mile walk on the uncertain chance that there might be mail in. Later when the G.T.P. erected a temporary depot, if and when mail did come in, it was dumped on the floor and each person picked out his own.



WILLIAM HODGINS BIGGAR, Q.C.

Director of Grand Trunk Pacific Railway

In 1908 on a special trip on the new line, he named this spot on the railway "Biggar".



G.T.P. Yards 1909.

The G.T.P. Station at Biggar is a model building.



The G.T.P. has 7 miles of trackage. The Roundhouse is one of 12 stalls with an addition of 6 projected at an early date.

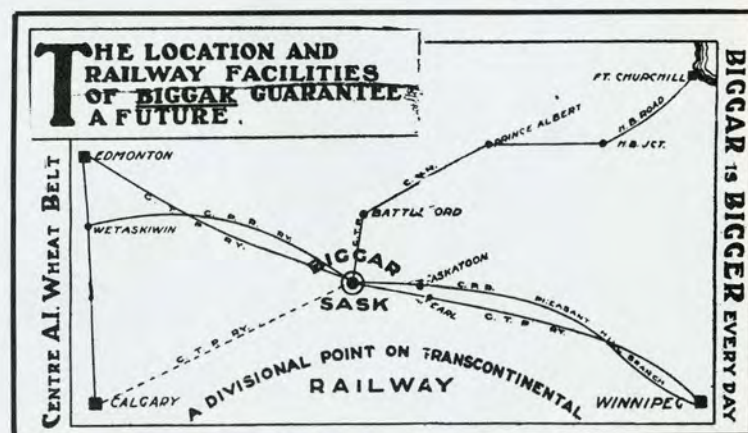


Biggar is beautifully located on a gentle eminence at the extreme western edge of the Bare Hills, overlooking a fertile farming community. In its surrounding country the prodigal hand of nature has with unstinted kindness placed beautiful scenic effects with placid fresh water lakes set as jewels amid the emerald expanse of rolling fertile prairies adapted to the easy and lucrative pursuit of agriculture. The land in this favored district is of a diversified nature from heavy clay to a rich black loam with enough grit to insure early ripening of crops and

body enough to guarantee excellent yields. Wheat, oats, barley, flax, potatoes and garden vegetables thrive in very few areas as they do in this.

The town is situated on two Great Canadian Railways, The Grant Trunk Pacific and The Canadian Pacific. It is laid out with wide streets and lanes, good sized lots, public parks and play grounds. A good supply of excellent water is obtainable in Biggar at a depth of from sixty to one hundred feet.

— The Biggar World





On June, 1909 A. W. Mooney was elected as the first Overseer of the village of Biggar.

"The Overseer and Councillors, Meek & Graham have fallen naturally into the intelligent discharge of their duties." — The Biggar World

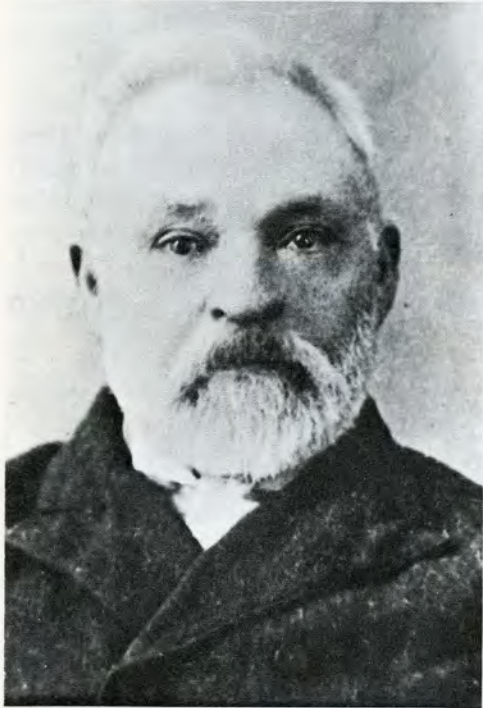
H. P. Turner was appointed Secretary Treasurer. His family had lived in a tent during the summer of 1908. One hot day, Mrs. Turner sat down behind the tent and cried, "Where in the world is the town going to be?" Her husband replied, "Right down there where you see that box car standing."

When the town was formed in 1911, C. K. Playford was elected as Mayor.

ONTARIO HOUSE
RATES \$1.00 and \$1.25 PER DAY
J. G. Ormrod
PROPRIETOR
FIRST AVENUE, BIGGAR, SASKATCHEWAN

Mooney Hardware opened 1909.





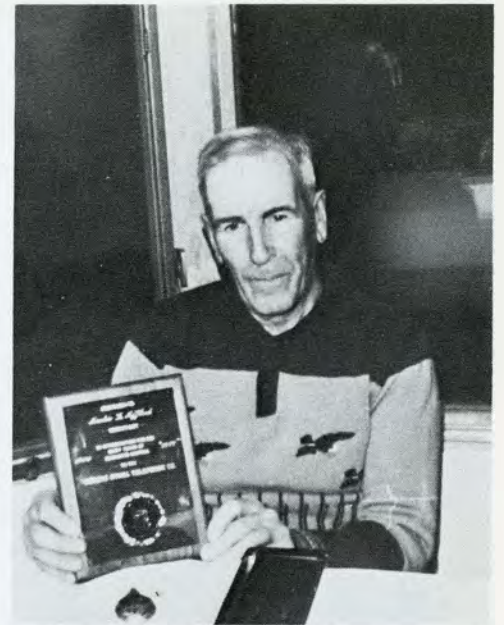
In 1909 Alexander Todd Tweedy-side Homesteader, was elected as first Overseer of the Local Improvement District.

When the Rural Municipality was formed in 1911, Robert Morice was elected as Reeve.

IMMIGRATION HALL

The New Government Immigration Hall at Biggar is being rapidly completed. The structure is 72 x 32 feet and one and a-half stories high, and is located on the corner of First Avenue and Queen street. The building will when finished present a handsome appearance. It is being fitted with every convenience for the accommodation of the land seekers who are thronging into this locality, drawn hither by the golden opportunity given them to obtain in this favored district first class half sections of garden land (homestead and pre-emption) near such an important market town as Biggar.

New Citizens for a New Land born in the District



Archie Affleck



Stephen Hanna



Cecile Martin (de Moissac)



Mary Glaser (Eichler)



Early businesses located on First Avenue East.

G. C. PORTEOUS

**House Painter
Decorator**

Paper Hanger

Sign Painting
Of Every Description
Done in Up-to-Date
Style

**Work Guaranteed---All Orders
Promptly Executed**

Geo. C. Porteous
BIGGAR, SASKATCHEWAN

PROFESSIONAL

S. J. STAPLES, M. D., C. M.
(TORONTO)

Physician, Surgeon, etc.

Office—Biggar Drug Store, 2nd Avenue

Calls answered from the office at any time during
day or night.

BIGGAR, SASKATCHEWAN.

JOIN THE

Biggar Lending Library

315 VOLUMES 50c.

PORTEOUS BROS.

THE CANADIAN RESTAURANT

MAH TOY Props. LEE WAH

Tobaccos, Cigars, and Confectionery

The Best 25 cent meal in town

E. F. A. WERNER

TONSORIAL PARLORS

AN EASY SHAVE. A FASHIONABLE HAIR-CUT
SHAMPOO and HAIR SINGE

King Edward Shaving Parlors

In Billiard Room on Main Street, Biggar Sask.



The first classroom was opened on January 17, 1910 in a room over McPhee's store (now part of the Biggar Hotel) with Miss Sarah Hassard as teacher.

Biggar's First Churches



St. Paul's Anglican — Rev. Stacey
 Methodist — Rev. Morrison
 St. Gabriel's Roman Catholic — Father Simon





Howard Nodwell and Jim Edwards 1909.

“Off to the Homestead”

Biggar has unequalled natural advantages for agricultural purposes. The ambitions of its virile business men in their undivided efforts for its expansion will quickly carry this prosperous town into its assured city-hood.

— The Biggar World



Mr. Louis Codante
1913



Mr. G. Merryfield's Sod House
Kensmith District 1908



1910 Mr. Horsman, principal, Sarah Hassard, teacher.



A Labor Saving Combination

"It is the last straw
that breaks the
camel's back." So
runs the old proverb.
And it is the little
extra efforts which
tire you out on
washday.

Eddy's
Indurated Fibreware
**Washtubs and
Washboards**





Dr. Sidney Shaw was known as "The father of the town." He homesteaded, engaged in scientific farming and was influential in the remarkable growth and development of Biggar.

The village council's first problem was water supply, a number of wells were dug here and there without success until the present stream was located.



Ollie Larson with oxen, Jack Miller in doorway, Douglas Stuart on motorcycle.

Price & Dalziel Construction
1911

From virgin prairie — a network of roads.





Ben Marcroft's Dairy

"Stock of all kinds does splendidly in Saskatchewan, some of the best horses and cattle in the province are raised on the farms around Biggar." — G.T.P. Brochure



1913 Mr. Leo Campbell — seeding.



1913 "Off to the farm with a new binder."



1912 Mr. Mountford — haying.



Mr. G. Merryfield's gasoline outfit 1912.



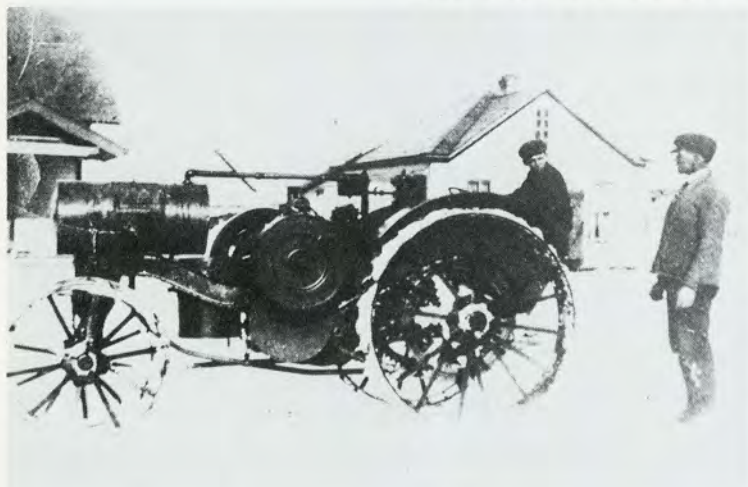
Biggar, Saskatchewan

November, 1912



Haney & Messers Pool Hall, 1913.

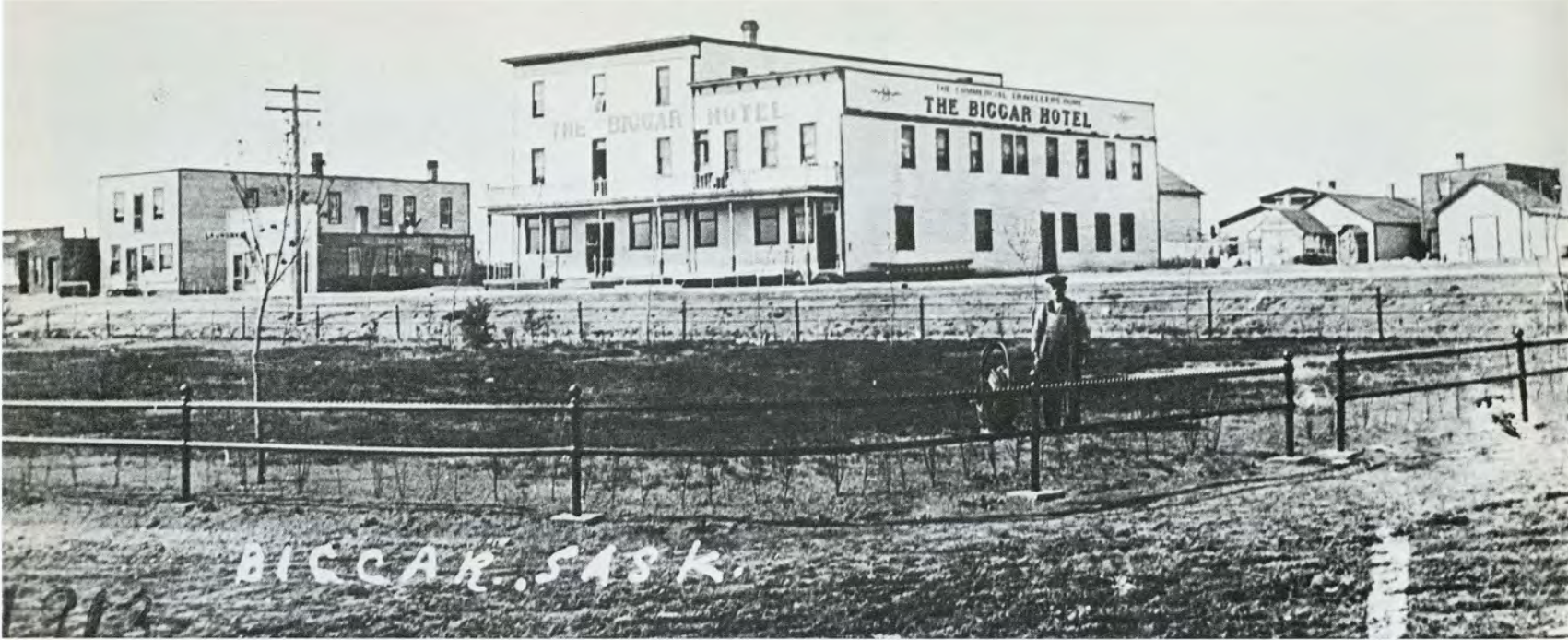
Pool Halls were used for dances and early church services before construction of churches.



Mr. Tom Ellis (standing) and George Ellis with Biggar's first gas tractor.



Mr. W. J. Wright and Hupmobile car. In back seat l. to r. Ann Miller, Rev. Stacey, and Libby Miller.



The Board of Trade, The Town Council and the G.T.P. are adding to the picturesque side of the Station property. At present there is a force of men putting in an iron fence around the two parks, planting trees and shrubbery.

Hello Central !

Hello Central ! is the order of the day in Biggar.

Tuesday morning Miss Amy Frampton assumed her duties at the new local switch-board and with very few exceptions the system worked perfectly

Its convenience is being proved by the incessant number of calls.

Don't fail to ring off when you are through talking.

Persons wishing telephones will find the contract forms at R. J. Frampton's.



George Holland, Bruce Cox, W. J. Holland, George Redfern, Bill Holland, Tom Crozier, (buggy) game birds plentiful and hunting a popular sport.





"Building boom in the lusty town of Biggar."



The Shaw homestead near Biggar.

The remarkable rapidity with which the G. T. P. is hauling grain, was clearly shown, when the Security Elevator shipped a car of grain to Fort Williams, which reached its destination, was inspected, unloaded and returned to Biggar, the Security Elevator again loading it inside of 18 days. That does not indicate shortage of cars this year,



Oct. 9, 1913

The G.T.P. has completed the stock yards, built near the Co-operative Elevator.



Dr. Shaw's prize field of rye — note hand tied sheaves.

“The growth of Biggar has been remarkable, trebling its number in 2½ years. With the completion of the water system and electric light system, together with the fine cement sidewalks, graded streets and handsome residences, Biggar has ample reason to feel proud; and the development of the surrounding district has been no less remarkable” — Financial Post 1914



William “Daddy” Striker, Pioneer from U.S.A. instrumental in the formation of the Alert School District. By his reports of the free land, lush grass and unlimited opportunities, he encouraged dozens of families to immigrate from Idaho and Washington to Biggar.



The S. P. James residence, 1914.

FIRE HOSE ARRIVES

The town has received its first consignment of fire hose. (500 ft)

This hose is kept at the power house on a reel, a fire Brigade will be organized as soon as possible.

In case of fire go to power house open door (if locked) with key hanging in box on door and take reel or chemicals out through large doors.





FOR SALE — At Biggarhurst
 Lots 25. 26. 27. 28. Block 12
 Plan G 138 Registration Office
 Cheap to quick purchaser.
 A. G. Warren, 18 Chase St.
 28 Johnstown, N. Y.

C.P.R. OPEN A TELEGRAPH OFFICE

The C. P. R. have installed a Commercial Telegraph Office in the jewelry store of George A. Matthews. This will save many a trip to North Biggar, as any information connected with the C.P.R. can be ascertained at this office.

A. J. Elias, former C.P.R. operator, and well known to us all has charge of the office.

Forty Thousand Men are Required

That 40,000 men from the East will be required to harvest the crop in the Prairie Provinces

BIGGAR REAL ESTATE SELLING IN CHICAGO

It may be of interest to local real estate dealers to know that the A. F. Brown Co. have recently opened up an office in Chicago, 402 Dearborn Street, and are advertising Biggar Real Estate in a front window display. They report quite a number of sales of their holdings, the new C.P.R. subdivision.

NEW C.P.R. ELEVATOR

The material is on the ground for an elevator at the C.P.R. and construction has commenced,

The need of an elevator at the C.P.R. has been keenly felt by the north farmers and this will relieve them from a three mile extra haul.

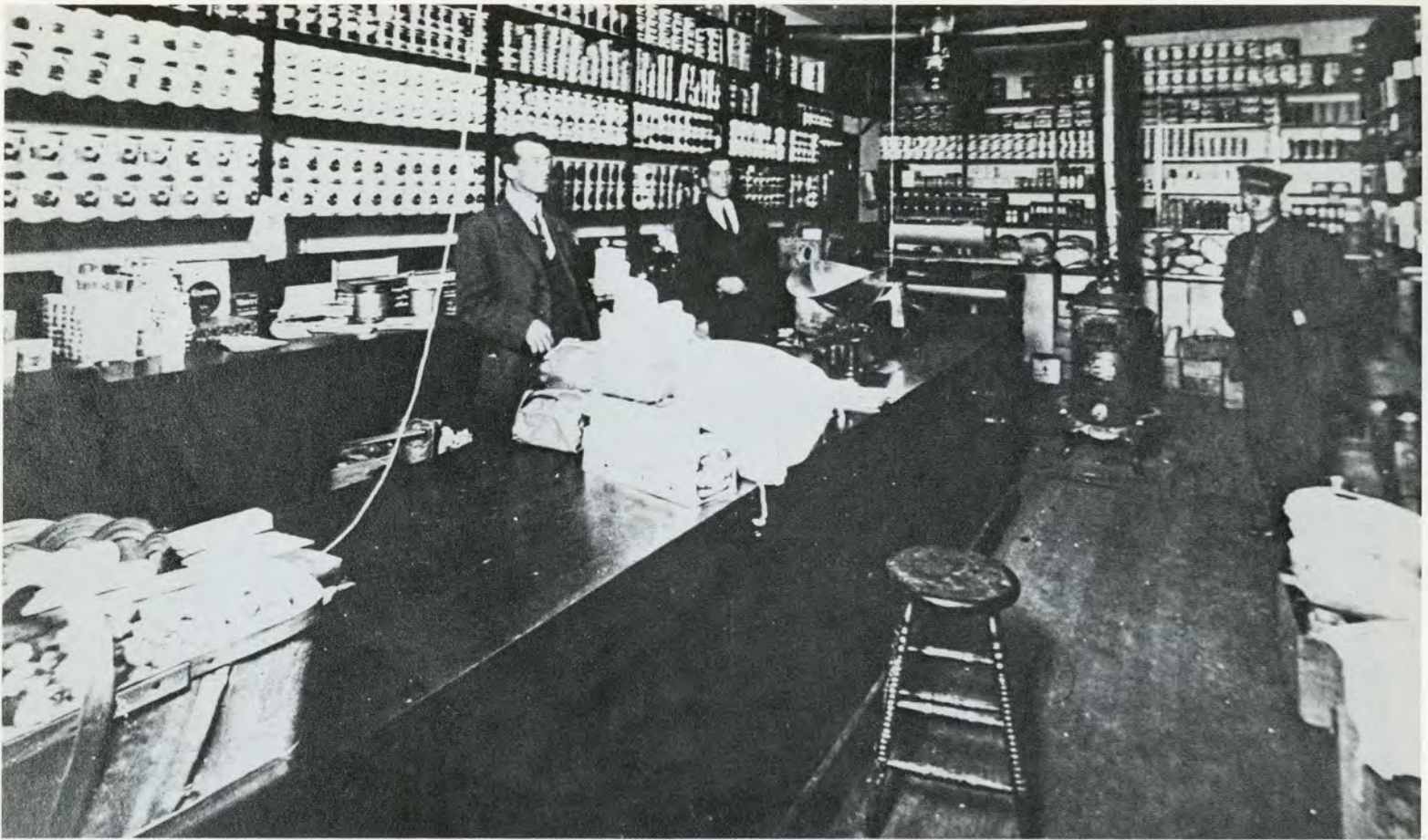
All that remains to bring a boom to the subdivision adjacent to the C.P.R. station, is for someone to bore for oil in the ravine. Oil is the burning question of the hour.

CANADIAN PACIFIC TOWNSITE AT BIGGAR

Survey being made by Regina firm of surveyors.

The survey and plotting out of the C.P. Townsite of Biggar, has been in progress the past week, and from what we hear, it is the intentions of the holders of this valuable piece of property, to place the same at once, on the market.

It appears that the Townsite Co., have been waiting for the C.P.R. to build the new station etc before offering this property to the public.



James Brothers Store opened for business, 1912.

Mr. George Dunbar and
Mr. Jack Miller

If you have not tried Miller Bros' delightful hot drinks, fancy biscuits and fire, you have missed something.



July 1915

Mrs. J. James, Mrs. McBeth, Mrs. Shaw, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. G. Noble, Miss A. Miller, Frankie Welsh, Mrs. C. Fallis, Mrs. Bowles, Mrs. L. Lyons, Eileen Jackson, Bess Cawthorpe, Mrs. Bolton, Mrs. S. P. James, Doll Dunbar, Mrs. J. McKay, Mrs. Sadie Fraser, Mrs. Cawthorpe.





The first Exhibition Grounds and Race Track were on the flat south of G.T.P.



4th Ave. E. 1916.



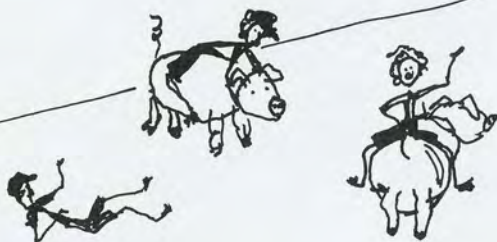
Mrs. Langford, Mrs. Ferguson, Mrs. Brace, Mrs. Gardiner.



"Big Muddy" cor. 3rd E and King St.

OPENING OF NEW TONSORIAL PARLORS

Messrs Haney and Messer have received their new furnishings and have fitted up an excellent barber shop. in connection with their Pool room besides two elegant easy chairs, the furnishings consist of two handsome bevel French plate mirrors 4x6ft set off in elegant antique oak finish with accessory glass shelves and marble-top drawers, cupboards etc. and with L. L. Green a first-class barber in attendance who comes highly recommended from the Queens Hotel Saskatoon makes a most up-to-date tonsorial parlors.



The Great Pig Race

The Savoy Cafe

Excellent Accommodation and Service

Meals Served A la Carte at all Hours

First Class White Chef

Full line of best Cigars, Cigarettes,
Tobaccos & Confectionery

Don't Forget to Try Our
Special New Year's Dinner

An Ode by the Cook of

The Savoy Cafe

Oh, I'm a cook, and a fancy cook,

And a good plain cook as well;

And all the dishes I can make

I haven't time to tell.

I can roast and broil and bake and boil,

And smother and stew and steam;

And the pies I make and the rolls and cake

Are simply a perfect dream!

Oh, I'm a cook, and the gift I gladly give

Is well-cooked food so that everyone may
live.

For I make such salads and sauce and soups

That everyone must agree

They never have eaten a dish that has beaten

The dishes prepared by me.

And you must admit, here's the truth of it,

No matter which way you look,

You never can see another like me—

There's nobody like the cook.

GREEKAS BROS.

Proprietors.



Majestic Screen 1916.



1916 Ben Robinson's Orchestra

Row 1: Bert Robinson, Mrs. Lefebure, Ben Robinson, Connie Robinson, E. Lefebure. Row 2: Clarence Schaub, Erwina Graham, Aemulius Graham.

Prof. Allando

Pounding the Ivory

Prof. Allando, one of the World's Champion piano players, is pounding the ivories, at the Newport Billiard Parlors, commencing Friday morning he will keep the fingers flying over the key board for forty consecutive hours, ending Saturday night. He is being fed, shaved massaged etc. while he plays and is attracting the attention of Biggarites.



Clunie Notes

A very successful and enjoyable Patriotic Barn Dance was held at the home of Mungo Clark on Tuesday, August 14.

The barn being tastefully decorated with red, white and blue, and the large attendance added much to the enjoyment of the evening.

The proceeds, amounting to \$72.35 included collections and donations, which have been sent to the Department of Education toward the Clunie School Patriotic Fund.



The Captain McNair Chapter of the Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire was named in honor of Capt. G. O. McNair who was one of the active public men during the early days of Biggar.

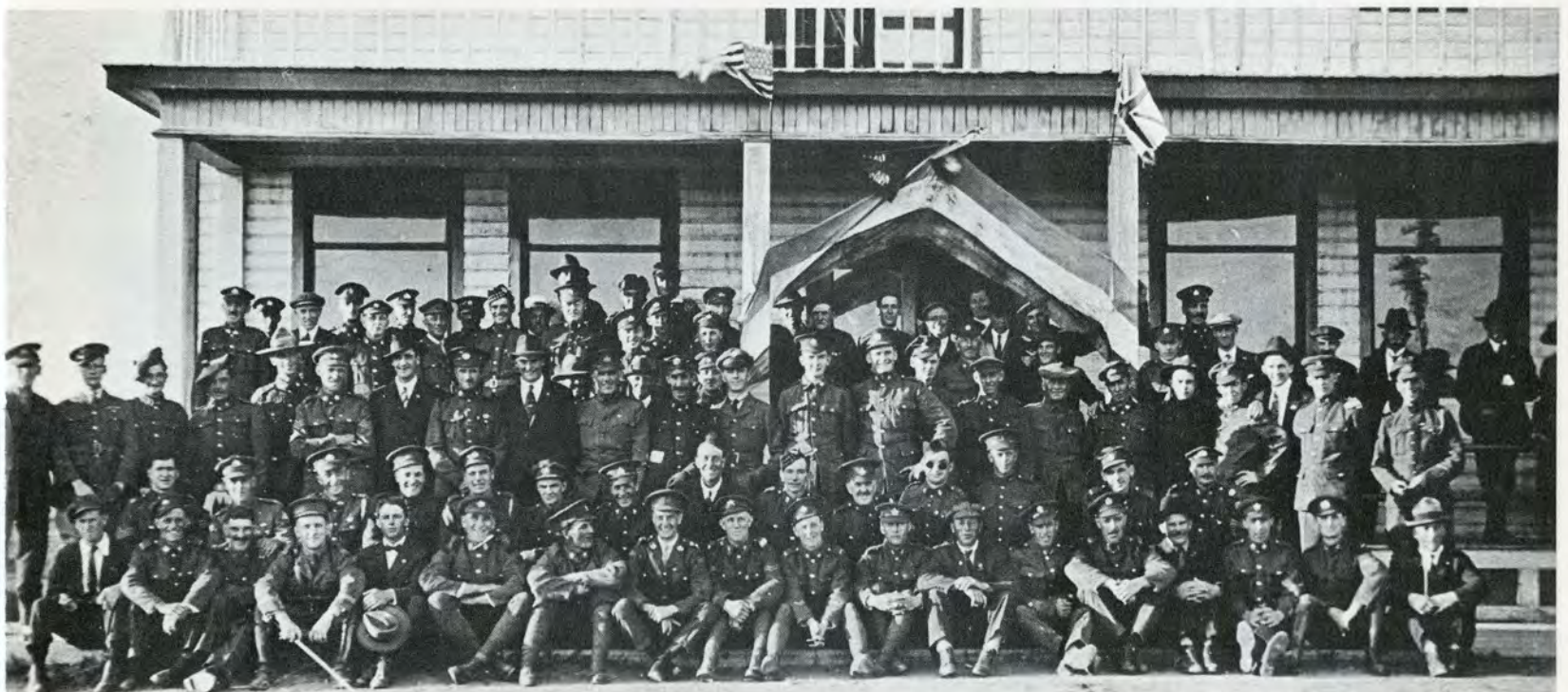


1919 When the boys came home.

R. BLAIKIE WRITES FROM THE FRONT

Two very interesting letters were received from the Blaikie boys, who have been in the trenches in France for several months, and have been under some heavy bombardments, losing a good many of the 1st C. M. R's. In one instance the German artillery blew a dam away, flooding the Allies' trenches so that the boys were up to their waists in water for 36 hrs. During another artillery duel, Bob writes, "Jim, Noble, another fellow and I were lying in our dugout, we were so crowded that we had to lie on our sides, when a shell hit the parapet, at the door of our dugout and we were buried to the waist with sandbags and dirt. Had the shell struck a little higher, nothing would have been left of that dugout."

"Rats" seem to be about as big a pest as the Germans, thousands of them, and so bold they gnaw at everything and run all over one. Occasionally a rat hunt is indulged in, but seems to make no difference to the hordes. The boys are in good spirits, but suffer some from rheumatics, due to the dampness of the climate and season.



Oban Sports - - May 24

A grand Sports Day will be held at Oban on Empire Day, ~~May 24th~~ Baseball, football, wrestling on horseback, catching the greasy pig and numerous other events which will be followed by a dance in the evening. Ladies are kindly requested to bring baskets.



Go to it boys! There will be lots of folk to grease the pole; you just wiggle your toes, and climb.



Triumph Church 1919.



THE HORSE

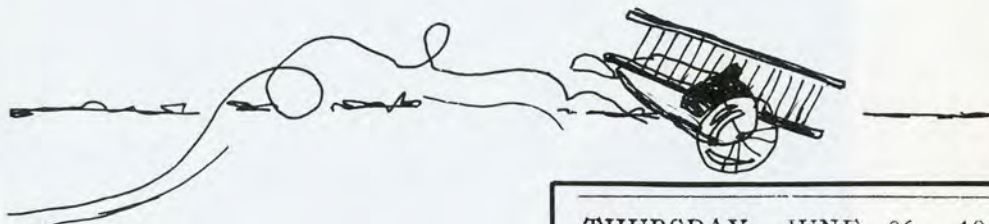
Oh, Horse you are a wonderful thing; no buttons to push, no horn to honk; you start yourself, no clutch to slip, no spark to miss no gear to strip; no license buying every year, with plates to screw on front and rear; no gas bills climbing up each day, stealing the joy of life away; no speed cops, chugging in your rear, shouting summons in your ear. Your inner tubes are all O.K. and thank the Lord they stay that way. Your spark plugs never miss and fussyour frame is good for many a mile; your body never changes style. Your wants are few and easy met; you've something on the auto yet.



**PLANE DAMAGED
TAKING OFF**

A little misfortune happened to the moth plane, that did a very good and entirely successful passenger service at the Agricultural Fair, and which came to grief when taking off for the return trip to Regina last Sunday morning. The plane had only risen some 25 ft. before it took a downward shoot, hitting the ground in such a way that a propeller blade and one wing were broken.

Neither the pilot or his assistant were injured.



THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1919.

**SPORTS DAY AND
CHAUTAUQUA**

On Tuesday next, Biggar will hold her annual Sports Day, a full compliment of races, more than formerly, will be pulled off. Some of the best baseball teams are to be here to wage battle royal for the honors and the big slice of the \$275. Buy your ticket for the Sports Ground while up town in the morning and avoid the rush at the gate.

Races are to begin at 1 o'clock. Get your dinner early and enjoy a big afternoon.

"Chautauqua" will be here on Thursday the 3rd, and to those who enjoy the best quality of amusement, both musical and literary, the week of the 3rd to 9th, will be one joyous occasion of the year. Secure your season tickets of the committee at once before the price goes up.



Biggar's First Rodeo, 1921

The Exhibition Grounds was moved directly west and abutting the residential section of west side of town.





Mr. Ben Robinson and his School Band 1920

Back Row: l. to r. Ruben Pollock, Scott Glover, Jack Mooney, Heck Woods, Geo. Miller, Norman McNiven, Geo. Glover, Murray Randall, Gordon McNiven. 2nd Row: Myrtle Merdith, Ethel Frampton, Ben Robinson, Ruby Hanway, Alice Barnett. 1st Row: Lenore Miller, Aileen Lewis, Francis Ferguson, Naomi Skinner, Beatrice Robinson.

Vanceview School 1920

Front Row, l. to r.: Ami Labrecque, Don McIntosh, Roy Ganyo, Geo. Harris, Ben Buxton, Miss Effie Porteous (teacher), Viola Myers, Geo. Buxton, Jack Smith. Center Row: Wm. Labrecque, Lillian Ganyo, Gertrude Fick, Isobel Smith, Mabel Fick, Charles Martin. Back Row: Anna Singer, Opal Allan, Lena Fick, Mary Buxton. Banner painted by Geo. Porteous. Shields won School Fair 1920.



"What Happened to Jones" April 1920

Back Row; Hymme Pollock, Francis Brown, Leta McFarland, Percy Hainstock, Winona Searle, Perc. Dunbar, Sam Pollock. First Row: Bob Buchaan, Laverne Mchargue, Eloise Ferguson, Anna Pollock, Frankie Ferguson, Ed. Ferguson, Nett. McFarland.





1922-23 Girls' Basketball Team, coached by Jack Mooney; Ethel Frampton, Bertha Francis, Agnes Crozier, Kathleen Drummond, Beth Mooney, Minnie Waring, Connie Horsman, Myrtle Lay, Gladys Lindgren.



Row 1: R. Burgess, W. Anderson, W. Smith, P. Ellaby, J. Davie. Row 2: T. Johnson, W. Whitworth, D. Brownlee, G. R. MacKay, T. Land, W. Adkin, H. C. Skinner.



H. Richards and Scouts 1922
 Row 1: G. Powell, D. Jamieson, R. Turcott, J. Hutton, T. Fenby, H. Mumby, R. Stead. Row 2: N. Moore, D. McNiven, T. Noon, J. Duffus, A. Jamieson, G. Stead, Mac McConachie. Row 3: A. Mansfield, B. Turner, E. James, N. Moore, G. Small, H. Richards, B. Davies, H. Badrock, T. Thompson.



Elk's "Kiddies Day", 1922.



"How to get warm twice." Bud, Stella and Marion Merryfield and two Gardiner boys.



"The arrival of Santa" 1923.

First Hospital — St. Margaret's opened Dec. 1923, by Grey Nuns.

There were many excellent nursing homes in the town before a hospital opened.

The radio bug has made his appearance in our midst.





The last of the original homesteads, 1925, Mr. John Gidluck SE 5-34-14 W3rd.



Plans are under way for the erection of a new spring board at Poplar Lake, by some of the swimmers who enjoy having a good board to dive from. It is hoped that the townspeople will support the young people in their effort for this so that everyone will have a chance to enjoy the benefits when bathing at the lake

POPLAR LAKE POPULAR RESORT

Bungalows and tents are daily going up on the banks of "Poplar Lake" and the resort is becoming more popular every day.

W. J. Lemon has purchased a motor boat, and other additions to the growing fleet of row boats are contemplated.

The families of W. E. Ferguson, W. W. Mitchell, G. R. Wittick and Mac Brown are among those to pitch camp the last week



Christmas Day, 1928.



Girls' Hockey Team 1926
 Back: Muriel Bonter, Lenore Miller, Lillian Shepherd. Centre: Jean McKenzie, Eileen Jardine, Annie Noon, Doris Barnett, Toots James. Front: Alma Turnbull.



Dunbar rink win at Regina, Geo. Dunbar, R. P. Hassard, M. H. Dickson, Alex Yates.



Tennis Court
 3rd Ave. Park
 Mrs. Brace, A. Miller, M. Frampton.

First C.N. tennis court.



The most exciting game of the season is staged for next Monday night when the Girls Team will endeavor to show the "Elks" how to play hockey. The proposed Elk line-up is:
 W. W. Miller, goal; Geo. Barnett, def.; L. Jones, for; W. Turnbull, for; H. Eamon, for; Geo. Dunbar, for; Subs.—R. B. Dunn, D. R. Cameron, S. H. Curran, R. Hebbard, B. Cox, H. Powell, J. Glazebrook and other Ambulance attendants, police and doctors will be in attendance.



Darktown Minstrels 1924
"Corby's Coons"



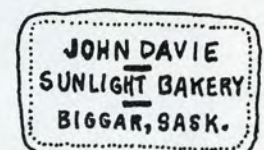
A Pantomime of 1927
Geo. Porteous, Mrs. Farrell, Jack Miller, Dr. Saich.



Red Flying Cloud
Fire Engine



Sid Willis and tow truck.





Dunbar Brothers' threshing outfit, Lydden, Sask. 1925.

"Mixed farms with plenty of 'Horse-power' became mechanized operations during the thirties. Ken and Roy Donahue with the J. W. Donahue outfit in centre. J. Rutherford Farm first combine."

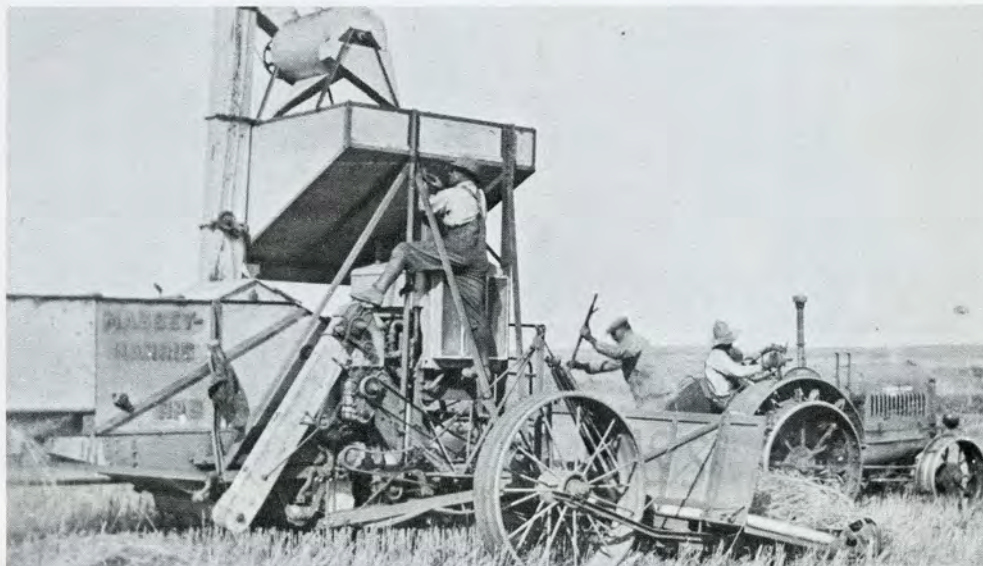


Jan. 24, 1935

"Mr. R. P. Hassard, M.L.A. to introduce crop insurance measure." — The Independent

**121 BUSHEL OATS
TO THE ACRE**

On a 4 and one-third acre patch of Marvellous Oats, Bill White, a farmer south of town in the Alert School District threshed 121 bus. to the acre. It took 17 pounds of twine to bind the patch. We have little doubt but what this will be the record for this district. John Gidluk threshed the oats and verifies the yield.



Mr. Arthur Boisvert and first tractor.



Mr. Albert Cowan hauling wood.



LYDDEN, SASK. 1925



C.N. Station enlarged, 1927.

Dr. W. D. BRACE
 Physician and Surgeon
 Third Ave, East
 Residence Phone 119 Office Phone 114
 Biggar - - - Sask.

1930



Royal Alex, 1929.



Biggar Oil & Gas Co., 1930.

At Smiley, Sask., on October 16th Conductor W. A. Fraser of the mixed train entertained in honor of thirty passengers marooned by the storm on the Dodsland sub mixed. Mr. Fraser was assisted in receiving his guests by B. W. Hanway, James Lang J. A. Fisher, K. T. McCuaig, Pat Collins and Art Davies. A choice repast was served at midnight, the baggage car being decorated with mattresses and bunks, the color scheme being carried out in white. D. R. McIntosh of Biggar, W. Lockerbie of Saskatoon and the Russian diplomat Knutsky McKauginsky were the guests of honor. Ham sandwiches, cheese sandwiches, salmon sandwiches, arrow root biscuits and coffee were tastefully served by Mr. Fraser's assistants. Mention was made by the guests of the beautiful china with which the table was decorated. The ices were cut by the section gang at Smiley while B. W. Hanway and James Lang poured tea, during the first hour. The assistants were tastefully garbed in overshoes and such clothing as they could borrow for the occasion. Roadmaster P. Cairns assisted in receiving the guests among whom were several ladies and three small children. All present enjoyed themselves until the sandwiches ran out due to extreme zeal on the part of several harvesters who were amongst the invited guests. A novel feature was the serving of sandwiches in pasteboard cartons. The party went to sleep about two a.m. voting their hosts capital entertainers and asking when breakfast would be served.

Biggar Crews on the South Branch.



"Bennet Buggy" of 1933.



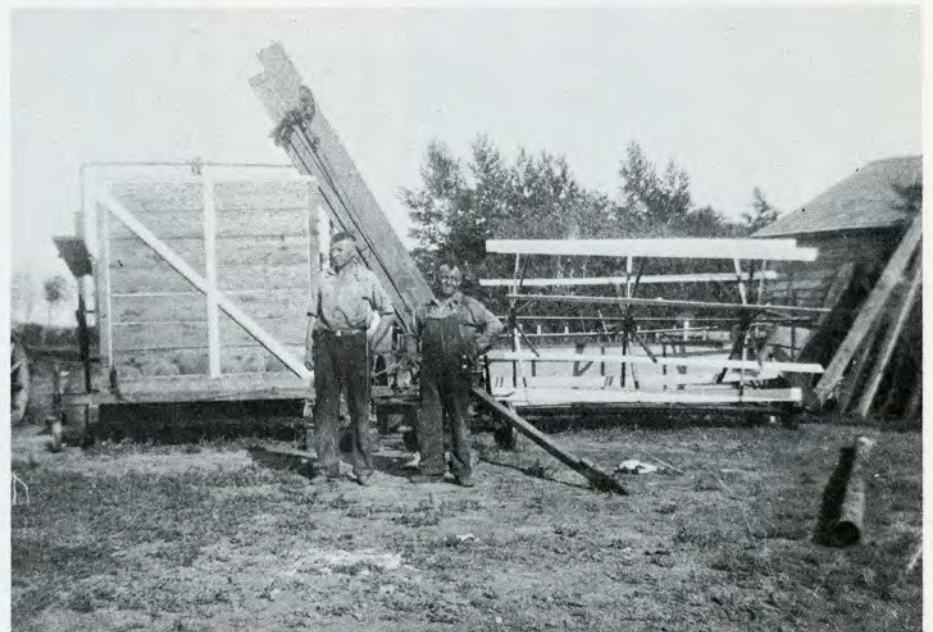
Ben Riley's wood yard.



Snowmobile made from a Model T Ford, 1930, by Alfred Wilson and Austin Greenway.



Covered van used by Mr. Tom Ellis to haul mail and passengers from the C.P.R. 1938.



Barge for harvest, made by John and Gil Schnedar. The grain was elevated into the box and tramped. The box was tripped and unloaded the stack. Later it was taken to the threshing machine by a bull rake.



Rural children were bussed into Biggar when the larger school unit was formed in 1945 and the country schools closed.



"Chesty" Brown.



Mrs. John Donnelly
Salvation Army worker



First Legion parade.



Sept. 23, 1937 — In an effort to reduce herds to the Government minimum, over which no feed or fodder relief will be supplied, 565 cattle were graded and sold to a government agency at 1c per pound.



Mrs. Malcolms poultry yard.



Thirsk Ladies' Aid, 1936.



Vince Farrell on his father's fox farm.

CANADA CAFE

SPECIAL SUNDAY DINNER

35¢

Cream of Tomato Soup
Sliced Tomato

Smoked Goldeye, Lemon Butter
Fresh Fried Oysters, Strip Bacon
Breaded Pork Tenderloin, Fried Apple
ROAST Young Turkey, Cranberry Sauce

French Fried Potatoes
String Beans in Butter
Green Apple Pie Hot Mince Pie
Strawberry Jelly, Whipped Cream

TEA Coffee Milk

COME IN AND SEE OUR MENU
and the Best Meal in Town for

25c

which is changed daily



Hay sling on Harry Sharp farm.



Front: M. Horbul, G. McIntosh, W. Anderson. Back: D. McIntosh, H. Stewart, C. Doan, J. Brown, J. Mooney, R. Covey, E. Calvert, W. Zenuik, J. Jones. "Crescents" 1931-32.



Row 1: R. Adolphe, A. Adolphe, C. Baker. Row 2: J. Calvert, L. Jones, J. Shepherd, D. Fisher, E. Bates, A. Carruthers. Row 3: G. Mones, L. Wood, D. Wood, E. Wood, A. Redlick, N. Carruthers, H. Carruthers.



Alert-Allanbank Ball Team 1936
V. Cribbey, F. Striker, H. Ellis, J. White, C. Striker, S. Crozier, G. Parker, M. Meger, R. Donahue.



The excellent calibre of entertainment has been enriched by many local orchestras. Each district had its own group. Back: F. Wasilenko, P. Tarasenko. Front: N. Chayko, N. Spechka, W. Dupchuk, W. Tavanetz.

KINSMEN CLUB
VERSUS
B. OF R. T.
Mon. Aug. 24
AT 8 P.M.
PARADE AT 4:30 P.M.
In the event of rain game will be
played in the Skating Rink.

A SIDE-SPLITTING COMEDY
OF BASEBALL ERRORS
Admission: Adults 35c Children 10c



H. Brown decorated by King George VI.



Royal visit 1939.



R. G. Bowron, long time municipal secretary.

Harold represents all the fine Biggar boys who were decorated in World War II.



L. Campbell, J. Blaikie, D. Mansfield, B. Laing, B. Blaikie, T. Robson, D. Gabie, A. W. Clark, H. Lewis, 1939.

GASOLINE LICENCE and RATION COUPON BOOK

SPECIAL

S 1-54823

Embottrell's
OIL CONTROLLER FOR CANADA
RÉGISSEUR DES HUILES POUR LE CANADA

CATEGORY
A
CATÉGORIE

1945
1946

For Motor Vehicle Licence Plate No.
27969

Pour la plaque de licence de véhicule automobile No.

PERMIS D'ESSENCE et COUPONS DE RATIONS





First grain delivery under quota system.



St. Margaret's Hospital 1943.



E. R. Sully — Back's Dairy.



NOTICE

MILK AND CREAM PRICES
COMMENCING OCTOBER 2nd
WILL BE
MILK — 12 Quarts for \$1.00
SINGLE Quarts 10¢ PINTS 5¢
CREAM — per 1/2 PINT 10¢
PINTS 20¢ QUARTS 40¢

B.J. MARCROFT
WM. H. BACK
THOS. BOUTH
J.R. CORMACK
CITY DAIRY
W.J. BAILEY

All bottles not returned will be charged for.



Miss Davidson



Mrs. McKenzie

Two of the many excellent music teachers who have contributed so much to the musical education of local students.



Deltra Eamon



Milton Jiricka

Biggar has long been put on the map as a result of the very high calibre of musical talent which has come out of the fine music studios here. Many laurels have been won by the musicians, musical groups and choirs in the town.



Biggar Ladies' Chorus

Centre: Pauline Ford, Mrs. McKenzie, Eloise Ferguson. Back Row: Elizabeth Dickson, Louvina Buchanan, Sheila Angus, Evelyn Norgord, June Saunders, Shirley Rowland, behind Marion White, Agnes Meneilly, Isobel Entwistle, Gladys Paige, Francis Affleck, Gladys Clift, Mima Allan, Kay Turnbull.





Albert Kessel — world flax, barley and rye king 1950-51.



"Dinner time"



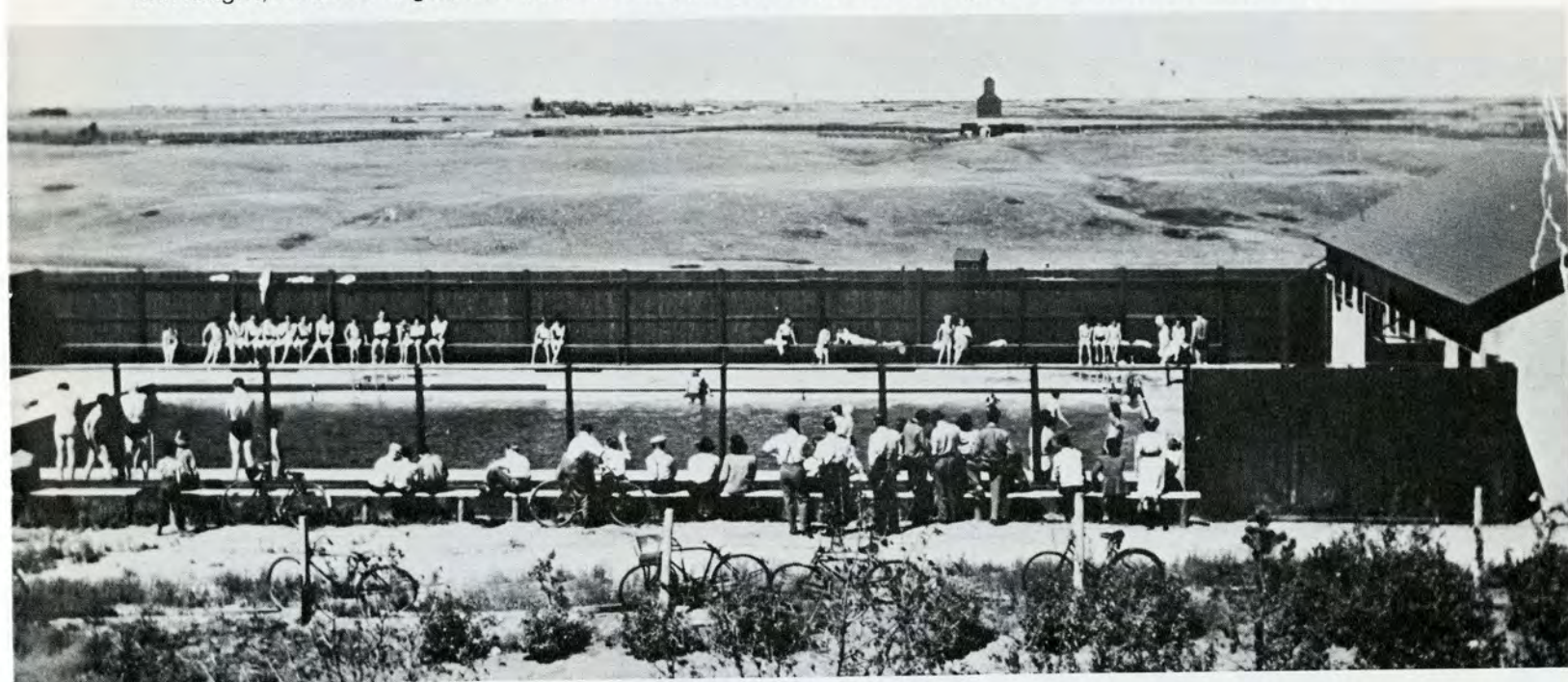
"Hello World" Ron Robinson's farm.



"More than one way to churn butter", F. Cowan Farm 1924. Glen, Eileen, Ruby, Albert and Leo Cowan.



The "Legionnaires" represent the many local hockey teams. Biggar's exciting, fast moving brand of hockey has been enjoyed by many. G. Clements, F. Kraus, T. Robillard, C. Proctor, G. Silvernagle, J. Silvernagle, V. Besse, C. McNaught, R. Silvernagle, W. Finn, J. Beilby, J. Tucker, E. Silvernagle, N. Boake, W. Barton, 1961.



Memorial Swimming Pool 1949.



Fire brigade 1951 — S. Williams, F. Coleman, F. Bonnett, S. H. Walker, D. McIntosh, S. Walker, W. Blaikie, F. Bonnett Jr.



The sling-shot or catapult, is having its spring run these days.

Elsie Hart "A lifetime spent in the service of mankind."
 A Landis pioneer, active in the farm union movement.
 Served as a member of the Health Planning Commission
 and the first labor relations board, and a charter member
 of the Saskatchewan Co-op Women's Guild.

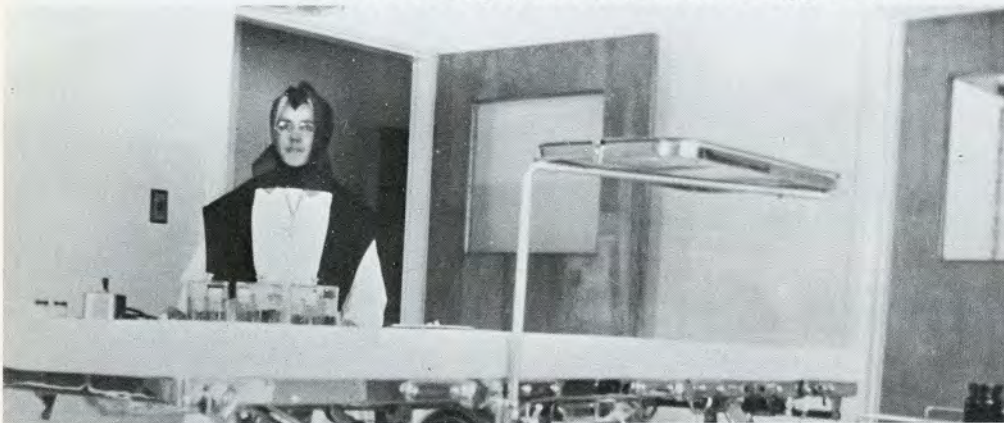
Mrs. Hart received an Honorary Doctor of Laws from the
 University of Saskatchewan in 1973 and was inducted
 into the Saskatchewan Agriculture Hall of Fame, 1979.



Dr. A. A. Hooge, M.D. practiced in Biggar 1938-1966.



Mr. C. V. Besse, Mayor 1980.



Sister Robidas in operating room, 1943-44.



Sister Philippe-du-Sacre-Coeur and class of 1951.



Mr. A. Hawkins, Reeve 1980.



Biggar Air Cadet Squadron #300 — 1954

Kneeling: F. Truman, W. Nichols, D. Newton, S. Reeme, L. Bell, W. Smith, J. McMaster, B. Lamb, A. Hendry, J. Taylor. Behind: G. Witt, B. Lanigan, J. Harris, T. Clark, D. Rand, —, T. Sparks, D. McCrea, R. Eyres, B. Labrecque, —, R. Crone, G. McCallum, W. Campbell, R. Labrecque, B. Nash, B. Carruthers, D. Webster, W. Taylor, D. Dymond, V. Maybroda, D. Davidson, D. Mansfield, A. Januson.



Girl Guides Mid 30's

Row 1: G. King, E. Spector, D. Padgham, M. McKay, J. Watters, M. McKay, M. McKay, J. Cutler. Row 2: B. Keeley, F. King, D. Perry, R. Fulton, I. Robinson, Mrs. Hitchman, W. Rutherford, V. Halla, J. Briggs, M. Wright, L. Bowles, R. Linden, S. Dunbar. Row 3: J. Britney, N. Todd, S. Brown, R. Dunbar, R. King, E. Wright, J. Britney, Calla McIntyre, M. Stuart, E. Hassard, E. Hock, E. Webster, J. Keeley. Row 4: S. Fraser, L. Burrison, I. Jennings, S. King, Monica Comer, P. Mills, D. Marcroft, D. Walker, E. Johnson, E. Webster, J. Ferguson, R. McKay, L. Newton, G. Wood.



Biggar Junior Trainmen

Saskatchewan Representatives in Lacrosse, Canada Summer Games, Burnaby, 1973.

Row 1: B. Berquist, L. Pedrotti, C. Poitras, W. Woodworth, W. Surik. Row 2: K. Newton, Bissonnette, F. McKay, F. Williams, K. Ross, C. Naconechny, Grant Gudmunson, J. Phillips. Row 3: R. McNally, B. Chappell, F. Baum, B. Brockman, D. Willis, P. Maddin.



1946



"Spill" on C.N.R. east of Cazalet, 1957.

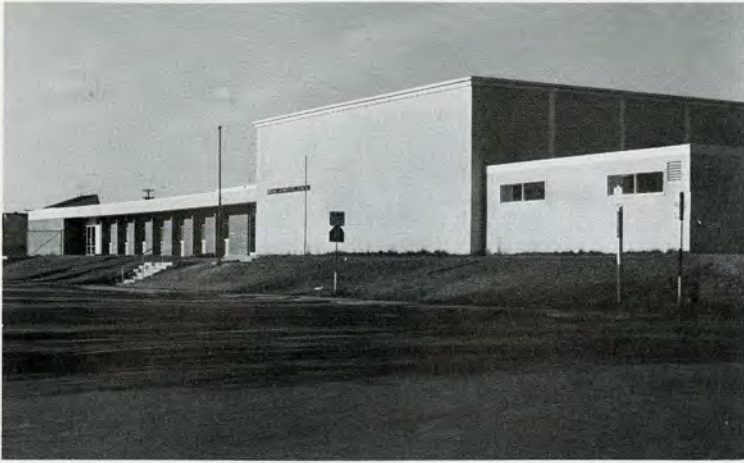


"End of an Era"

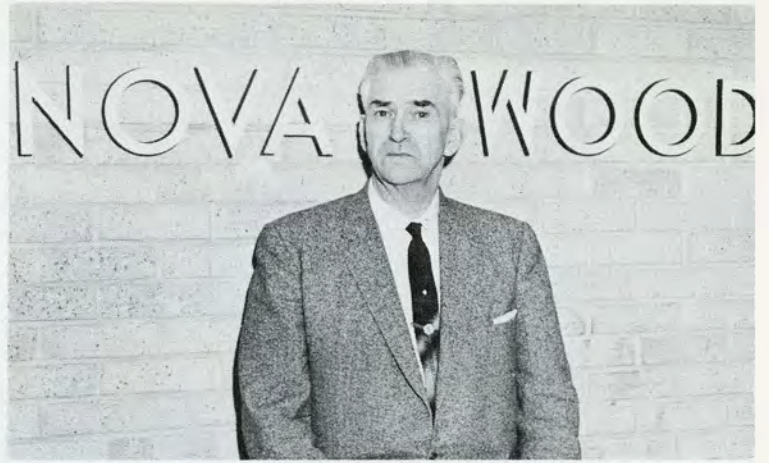
"Winter Beauty". This church represents Biggar's many fine churches.



Schools



Biggar Composite



Nova Wood



St. Gabriel's



Woodrow Lloyd



Water treatment plant 1979



Town Hall



Biggar Union Hospital



Jubilee stadium and curling rink.




GRAND TRUNK PACIFIC
GRAND-TRONC-PACIFIQUE

Planned at the beginning of the 20th century as a transcontinental line to rival the Canadian Pacific, the Grand Trunk Pacific was beset by managerial and financial troubles which prevented its profitable operation and it became part of the Canadian National Railways in 1920. The railway played a significant role in the development of the western provinces and many settlements, such as Biggar, grew up from stations along the line. Its station buildings, like the Biggar example, remain a distinctive contribution to Canada's architectural heritage.

Projeté au début du XX^e siècle comme réseau transcontinental devant rivaliser avec le Canadien Pacifique, le Grand-Tronc-Pacifique fut perturbé dans ses opérations par des difficultés administratives et financières. Il fut donc pris en main par les chemins de fer nationaux du Canada en 1920. Ce réseau a toutefois joué un rôle important dans le développement des provinces de l'Ouest et de nombreux établissements, tels que Biggar, sont nés des stations situées le long de la ligne. Les gares de ces stations constituent un élément remarquable du patrimoine architectural canadien.

Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada.
 Commission des lieux et monuments historiques du Canada.

Government of Canada · Gouvernement du Canada

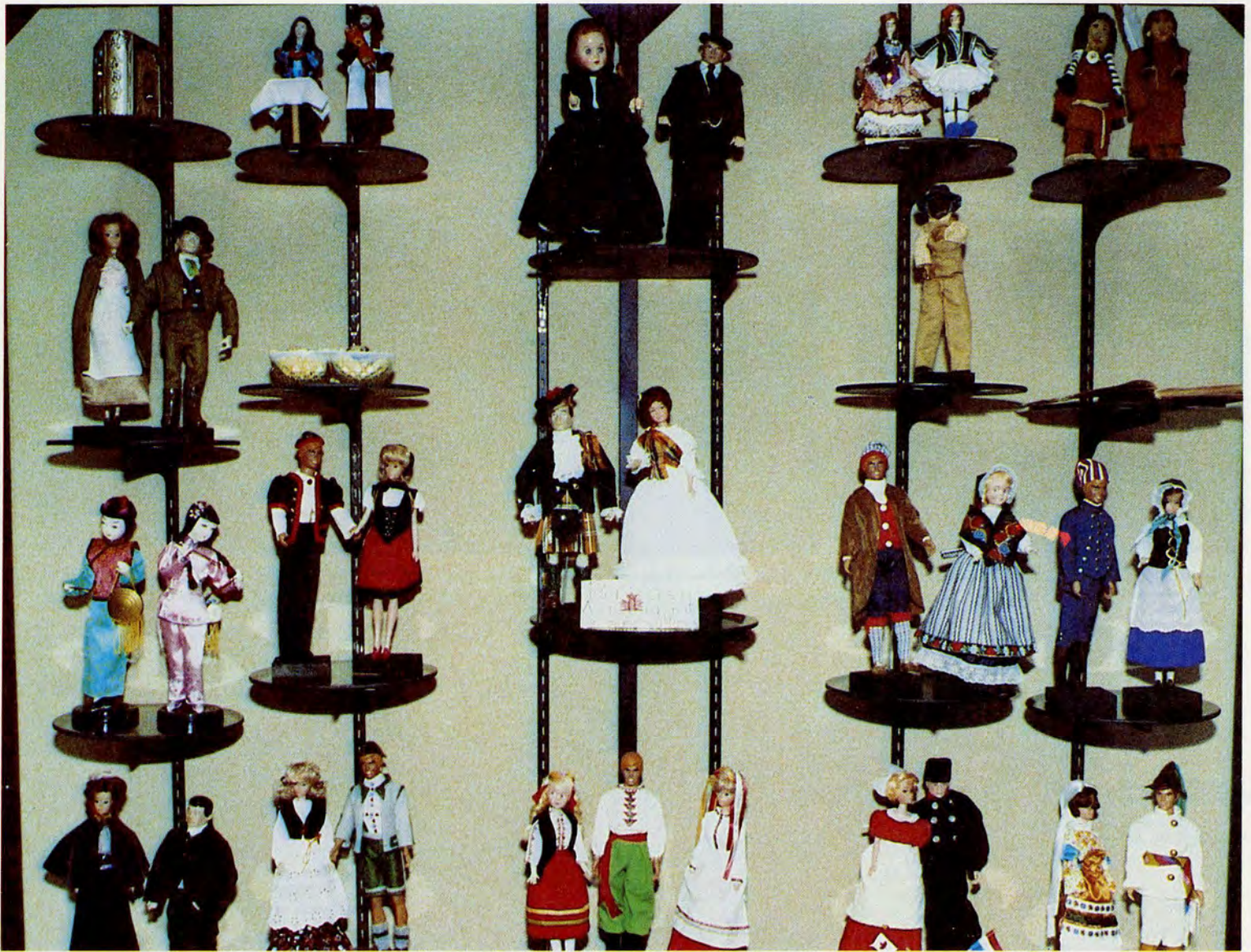
C.N.R. Station declared a Historic Site 1979.



Diamond Lodge

Norwest Apartments

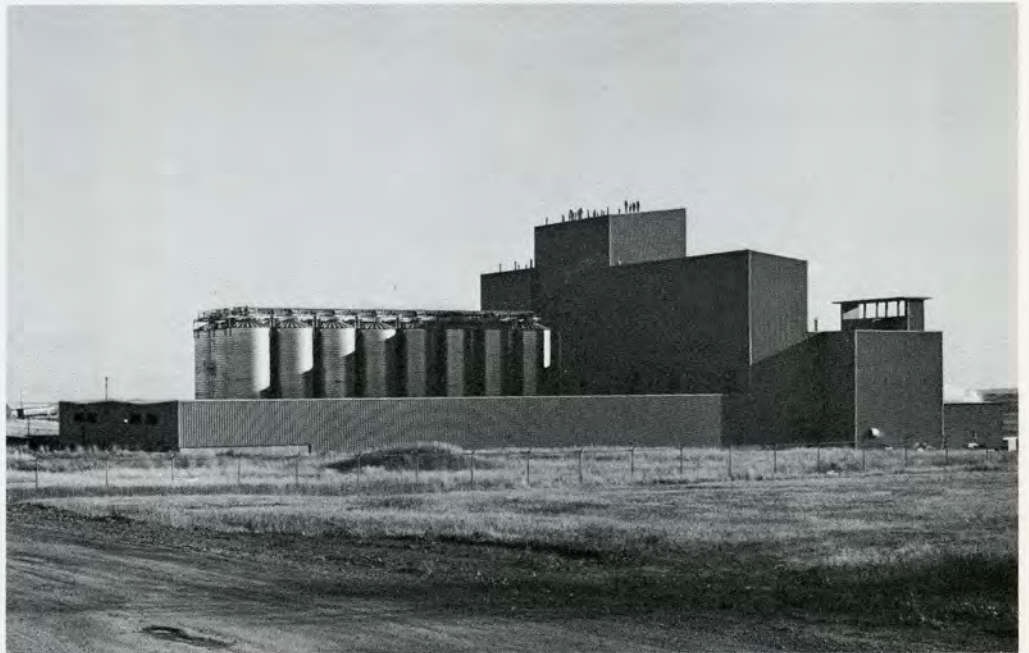




Melting Pot of Many Cultures



The Biggar Museum and Gallery opened on Sept. 30, 1972. With the enthusiasm, vitality and interest of Mayor Lloyd Hock and the town council and the work of a dedicated board of trustees, a dream became a reality.



Prairie Malt (Canada) Ltd.

At the junction of three highways, Biggar enjoys the services of two railways, bus and truck services and a landing strip.

Since 1909 Biggar has enjoyed a succession of fine business establishments.

- Newspaper
- Retail outlets
- Specialty shops
- Banking facilities
- Travel accommodation
- Food outlets
- Lumber yards
- Garages
- Theatre and recreational facilities
- Hospital and Health Care Offices
- Administrative services
- Educational institutions
- Government agencies





Mrs. Ella Naish

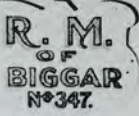
A core of volunteer librarians have contributed to the excellent service Biggar has enjoyed since the first Library was organized in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

The present Lionel Jones Library was opened in 1967 when the Wheatland Regional system was instituted.

Since the formation of the village of Biggar in 1908 the community has been enriched through the labors of volunteers who have donated their time and talents, both as individuals and through organizations.

The contributions made by churches, service and fraternal organizations, cultural and historical groups, recreational organizations, fire brigade, health care and New Horizons and many others are written in the advancement and progress of a considerate, Modern Community of 2610 "Biggar" people.

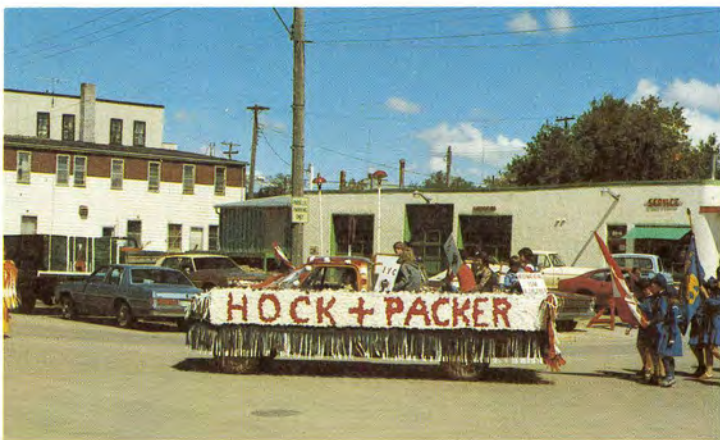
Honour Roll



Allen, F.	Dawes, L. W.	Mann, T.	Smith, J. C.	Aylward, A	Komodovski, M
Adams, R. M.	Dafoe, C.	Mainland, J.	Sharpe, J.	Aylward, F	Komodovski, P
Anthony, C. H.	Deets, D.	Mainland, T.	Sosko, W.	Beckett, D	Fisher, A. T.
Anderson, R.	Deets, G.	Malcolm, R.	Smith, A. F.	Boisvert, J	Fisher, M
Bailey, C. A.	Deets, Janet	Murdoch, J. R.	Solanik, N.	Bourk, A	Fisher, R. J.
Booth, C.	Deets, V.	Moncrief, J. W.	Sharp, A. †	Bourk, Joyce	Learmonth, J. G.
Boyne, G.	Drew, N.	Moncrief, W. E.	Schoenheit, H. W.	Brymer, Irene	Longworth, W.
Buxton, J.	Evans, N.	McGillivray, A.	Smith, R.	Carruthers, Roy	Longworth, W.
Blue, L.	Fedyk, J.	McDonald, E.	Sayers, W.	de Beaupre, E	Lorrie, V.
Burns, M.	Fretz, A.	McDonald, G.	Scobie, E.	de Beaupre, R	Marien, J. T.
Brown, T.	Greenway, E.	McInoshi, J.	Simpson, E.	de Beaupre, E. J.	Marien, L. T.
Bulger, G.	Greenway, G.	McKinley, W.	Stockton, R.	de Bussac, C	Marien, B.
Briscoe, G. L.	Gallucci, E.	Nimmo, J. R.	Tapp, H. C.	de Bussac, G. †	Marlin, J. B.
Briscoe, K.	Gentiles, J.	Nelson, O.	Todd, N.	de Bussac, H	Marlin, M. E.
Bryan, F.	Gibson, J.	Osmachenko, W.	Tinant, J.	de Moissac, L	Murdoch, D.
Clark, Elmer	Horsford, F.	Osmachenko, M.	Towriss, G.	de Moissac, M	Murdoch, J.
Clark, Ernest	Horsford, N.	Osmachenko, A.	Tarasenko, P. †	Desrosiers, R	McCaig, M.
Cumstone, W.	Horsman, J.	Oliver, E.	Trapp, C. H.	Desrosiers, T	McCaig, R.
Colbert E.T.C.	Hill, W.	Parsons, D.	Thomas, W. L.	Dirks, H	McCaig, W.
Critall, N.	Hydomako, M.	Parsons, W.	Truscott, J.	Dirks, J	McCulloch, G.
Chayko, N.	Johns, V.	Paul, R.	Watson, F.	Dirks, R	McCulloch, J. T.
Carswell, J. J.	Johnston, L.	Piggott, C.	Williams, L.V.	Dubreuil, E	McInfyre, D. D.
Collam, J. B.	Kerr, T.	Potter, D.	Wright, N. C.	Dubreuil, L	McLean, D. L.
Cottam, D. A.	Kelly, A.	Palmer, G.	Waddell, D.	Dunbar, A	McLean, W. G.
Cottam, R.	Kelly, L.	Quirkfall, R.	Waddell, P.	Dunbar, W. P.	McMillan, G.
Coupland, J.	Kelly, V.	Ratke, W.	Whitfield, P.	Dupus, G. A.	Pafferson, T. R.
Coupland, M.	Kelly, V.	Ratke, E.	Wood, K.	Dupus, P. H.	Proudlock, H.
Clayton, R. M.	Kletz, F.	Rowlands, J.	Yaschuk, W.	Dyck, P. G.	Pollock, W. H.
Clayton, N. B.	Kolberg, W.	Rogers, R. C.	Zankowicz, L.	Evans, Alvin	Robertson, W.
Cowan, L. †	Knighton, R.	Rogers, A. T.		Gauthier, A	Royal, F. G.
Cowan, G.	Krawchenko, S.	Reid, E.		Goring, A. E.	Rumpel, C. A.
Clark, M.	Krawchenko, L.	Reid, A.		Harms, E. E.	Shea, C. A.
Clark, J.	King, T. A.	Redlich, G.		Harms, H. E.	Shea, Erwin
Crabb, B.	Larson, C.	Routley, C. E.		Hart, J.	Staples, D.
Dorsett, J.	Larson, C.	Scobie, J.		Hart, J.	Staples, M. J.
Deane, S. M.	Lightburn, H.	Surik, T.		Hart, S.	Taylor, N.
Donahue, M. R.	Lindgren, L.	Sjostrom, O. J.		Hembecker, R. J.	Thomson, R. O.
Danton, F.	Levers, G.	Schafhauser, W.		Higbee, R. W.	Thomson, D. P.
Denton, F. H.				Hindley, P.	
Daley Regma				Kergoat, P.	

Honor roll

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to our pioneers
who contributed so much, with deep affection
and with gratitude.

Agnes Wilson and Alice Ellis and
The Board of Trustees of the Biggar Museum & Gallery

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Biggar Museum and Gallery Archives
Biggar Independents from 1909-1943
Town of Biggar Records
The Thoughtful people who shared their pictures with us
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The Celebrate Saskatchewan Committee
The generous contributors
The Biggar Independent
The Town Administrator and staff
All of the people who helped in any way
The pictures used in the Pictorial History of Biggar
are representative of the many facets of life in the area
to the year nineteen eighty
Saskatchewan's Seventy-fifth Birthday.

